

## **RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING EDWARD KNOX POWE, III**

**WHEREAS**, Edward Knox Powe, III was born November 18, 1921 in Durham and was a lifelong resident of the city; and

**WHEREAS**, E.K. graduated from Episcopal High School, and received his undergraduate and law degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill; and

**WHEREAS**, during his sophomore year at Carolina, he volunteered for military duty in World War II, enlisting in the U.S. Army; and

**WHEREAS**, E.K. was wounded in France and received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for bravery, and was honorably discharged in 1946 as a Captain; and

**WHEREAS**, he began his legal career as a sole practitioner in Durham in 1950 and was later the founding partner of what became the largest law firm in Durham—Powe, Porter, Alphin, and Whichard—before merging with Moore and Van Allen in 1986; and

**WHEREAS**, he represented many of Durham's leading businesses and organizations during their formative and critical years and established a renowned practice in surety and insurance law; and

**WHEREAS**, E.K. served his profession as President of the North Carolina State Bar Association, President of the Durham County Bar Association, and Vice Chairman of the North Carolina Judicial Standards Commission, among others; and

**WHEREAS**, he served as a lecturer at the law schools at both UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University; and

**WHEREAS**, E.K. was known across the state as an attorney who practiced with the highest standard of integrity and propriety, always placing his commitment to his clients and profession above personal or economic interests; and

**WHEREAS**, he represented Durham County during two sessions and one special session of the North Carolina General Assembly in the 1950s, courageously advocating for school integration and regulation of high-interest small loans; and

**WHEREAS**, E.K.'s civic involvement included service as Chairman of the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, from which he received the Civic Honor Award; Founder and Chairman of the Research Triangle Planning Commission; Chairman of the Durham City-County Charter Commission; President of the Board of the North Carolina Symphony; a member of the Board of Trustees of North Carolina Central University; and a member of the Advisory Board of Duke University Medical Center; and

**WHEREAS**, he was a lifelong member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church, where he taught Sunday school, served on the Vestry, including numerous terms as Senior Warden; and

**WHEREAS**, Willis Whichard, the only North Carolinian to serve in both houses of the General Assembly and both State Appellate Courts, said of his longtime friend and law partner, "E.K. Powe epitomized the most noble values of the legal profession. He was also the ultimate lawyer-public servant who served both the Durham community and the state with vision, intelligence, and diligence. My own

career in public service was greatly influenced by his example and would not have been possible without his support”; and

**WHEREAS**, E.K. passed peacefully in his sleep on February 6, 2011; and is survived by his widow, Lucia; daughters Louise, Katherine, and Josephine, and their families; sisters Josephine and Mary Louise; step-daughters Lucia, Mimi, Sydney, and Elizabeth and their families; and was predeceased in 1990 by his first wife, Sibyl; and

**WHEREAS**, E.K. lived a full and happy life of dedication and service to his family, his church, his profession, and the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DURHAM CITY COUNCIL:**

1. That this City Council pauses in a moment of silence in memory of Edward Knox Powe, III.
2. That this governing body pays tribute to his life and respectfully recognizes the contributions he made to the Durham Community and the State of North Carolina.
3. That this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of this governing body.
4. That a certified copy of this resolution be presented to his wife, Lucia Powe.